(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed a number of steps for reforms in higher education. This includes mitigation of quality gaps in universities and colleges, revamping of Academic Staff Colleges, strengthening of Inter-University Centres, establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cells in universities and colleges, academic reforms in universities and colleges, designing of model curriculum, identification of various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education, etc.

Education to children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1724. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 3.68 crore children have become part of the country's education system ever since Government launched the ambitious Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, targeting children in the age group of 6-14 years;

(b) if so, whether the SSA was launched with the aim of universalising elementary education, and the programme is aiming at universalisation by 2010;

(c) whether the number of out of school children, in the 6-14 age group, has been steadly declining since the launch of SSA; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide education to all children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education in a mission mode. Various incentives including cooked mid day meal are being provided to ensure universal enrolment of children in rural areas, in the 6-14 years age group. 98% of rural India has a primary school within one kilometre and remaining rural habitations have alternate schooling arrangements including Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS). **Consequently since the launch of SSA all the out of school children in the 6-14 age group in the country** (how numbered 320 lakh in 2001-02), **have been brought in the ambit of elementary education except** 75.97 **lakh out-of-school children** (as on 31.03.2007), **who represent the difficult to reach category.**

Sports, games and skill development in schools

1725. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A.HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that by giving due priority to sports, games and skill development, quality of education could have been improved at primary and secondary level;

(b) whether it is a fact that this could have arrested drop-out rates of students;

(c) if so, what is the status and allocation given to sports at the primary and secondary level;

(d) whether the infrastructure of sports at the school level is not sufficient; and

(e) if so; the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sports and games are integral part of the subject Health and Physical Education which has been made compulsory from primary to secondary stage and is prescribed as an optional subject at the senior secondary stage in the schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and in almost all the States. Health and Physical fitness are among the key determinants for the overall development of the child and influence enrolment, retention and school completion rates significantly. This has been reiterated in the National Curriculum Framework-2005.

(d) and (e) Affiliation bye-laws of CBSE prescribe minimum requirement of infrastrcuture for physical education, States prescribe their own norms.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme of Government of India for the promotion of Universalisation of Elementary Education, recognises the importance of games, sports and skill development for improving quality of education at elementary and higher level, and promotes joyful, activity based learning by using a wide range of games in and outside classrooms.

Blueprint for setting up an IIT

1726. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alumni of seven IITs are drawing up a blueprint to set up a new IIT in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the location of this new IIT and what would be its sources of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are governed by The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. New IITs can only be set up as per that Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Children in Government schools

1727. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of children in the country receive education in Government primary schools;